

## Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 AID-20

CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-15

SPC-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DLOS-06 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /165 W

----- 019010

R 201953Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8596

UNCLAS PANAMA 5113

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PN

SUBJ: EXPLORATORY OIL DRILLING TO BEGIN IN GULF OF  
PANAMA

REF: PANAMA A-164 OF AUGUST 1, 1973

1. AS A RESULT OF FAVORABLE RESULTS FROM SEISMIC STUDIES  
CONDUCTED SINCE THE GRANTING OF EXPLORATORY CONCESSIONS  
IN 1971, THE FIRST EXPLORATORY DRILLING FOR OIL IN THE  
GULF OF PANAMA WILL BEGIN IN NOVEMBER ACCORDING TO AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES  
WHICH APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF ALL LOCAL SPANISH  
AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 20. PLARIS,  
S.A., A SUBSIDIARY OF SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORP. OF  
CALIFORNIA, WILL BEGIN DRILLING UNDER SUPERVISION OF  
EL PASO PANAMA CO., A SUBSIDIARY OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS  
CO. OF EL PASO, TEXAS.

2. SITE OF FIRST WELL WILL BE ABOUT 104 MILES SOUTHWEST  
OF PANAMA CITY WHERE WATERDEPTH ABOUT 250 FEET. PLANS  
CALL FOR DRILLING TO DEPTH OF ABOUT 13,800 FEET. DRILLING  
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WILL BE DONE BY GLOBAL MARINE CO. USING OIL-DRILLING

SHIP GLOMAR II CONSTRUCTED ESPECIALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE.  
FIRST DRILLING IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MIDDLE  
OF JANUARY 1974. COST OF PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE TWO  
TO THREE MILLION BALBOAS.

3. AFTER COMPLETION OF PLARIS DRILLING, CREW WILL MOVE  
TO SITE ABOUT 70 MILES SOUTH OF PANAMA CITY TO BEGIN  
WORK ON CONCESSION GRANTED IN 1971 TO CORVUS, S.A., A  
SUBSIDIARY OF OCEANIC EXPLORATION COMPANY OF COLORADO.  
SAYRE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PANAMA05113  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730921/aaaaaplo.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** PANAMA A-164 OF AUGUST 1, 1973  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Dec-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXPLORATORY OIL DRILLING TO BEGIN IN GULF OF PANAMA  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PN, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005